

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00692 091110Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /083 W
-----049700 091117Z /14

P 091035Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5478
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0692

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, LY, IT
SUBJECT: QADHAFI AND RED BRIGADE

SUMMARY. QADHAFI SUMMONED ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MORNING MAY 7
TO OFFER SYMPATHY TO MORO FAMILY, CONDEMN TERRORISM OF RED
BRIGADE AND TO OFFER WHATEVER ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE TO SAVE
MORO'S LIFE. AMBASSADOR MAROTTA DENIES LIBYA MEDIA REPORTS
THAT ITALY TOOK INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING LIBYAN ASSISTANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. LIBYAN PRESS REPORTED MAY 8 THAT ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAD
REQUESTED COL. QADHAFI'S ASSISTANCE IN MORO CASE. IN RESPONSE
TO MY QUERIES SAME DAY AMBASSADOR MAROTTA GAVE ME FOLLOWING
VERSION. HE WAS SUMMONED MORNING MAY 7 TO QADHAFI'S HEAD-
QUARTERS IN TRIPOLI. AFTER OPENING CHITCHAT QADHAFI
EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER MORO KIDNAPPING AND CONDEMNED
IN STRONGEST TERMS ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. HE

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ASKED AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND OFFERED
TO HELP (UNSPECIFIED) IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR
EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO QADHAFI FOR HUMANITARIAN INTERESTS
WHICH WERE IN KEEPING WITH CLOSE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN
TWO COUNTRIES.

2. SUBSEQUENT LIBYAN MEDIA REPORTS TO EFFECT THAT ITALY

HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE TO REQUEST QADHAFI'S ASSISTANCE IN SAVING MORO CAUSED DEEP PAIN TO AMBASSADOR. THEY ALSO BROUGHT CRITICAL QUESTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT IN ROME AND MANY QUERIES FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESS. AMBASSADOR BLAMED SYCOPHANTIC ILL-INFORMED, UNCOORDINATED LIBYAN BUREAUCRATS FOR PRESS BLUNDER.

3. IN MY PRESENCE HE CALLED QADHAFI'S NEW SPECIAL ASSISTANT JADALLAH AZZUZ TALKI (FORMER MINISTER/SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY WHO REPLACED LATE TAHA SHARIF BEN AMIR AND ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR WAS PRINCIPAL LIBYAN NEGOTIATOR IN FIAT DEAL) TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ERRONEOUS PRESS REPORTS. AMBASSADOR MADE POINT TO TALHI THAT LIBYAN PRESS ACCOUNTS SUGGESTED THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DESIRED NEGOTIATIONS WITH RED BRIGADE AND/OR THAT QADHAFI MIGHT HAVE CONTACT WITH THEM. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT TALHI TOOK POINT AND PROMISED TO ISSUE CORRECTED PRESS STATEMENT.

4. AMBASSADOR SPECULATED THAT QADHAFI MIGHT BE ACTING AT BEHEST OF SOVIET OR ITALIAN COMMUNISTS WHO WISH TO CALM ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE. MY OWN GUESS IS THAT QADHAFI SIMPLY WANTS TO BE IN INTERNATIONAL LIMELIGHT AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY IMPROVE HIS CREDENTIALS AS A PEACEMAKER AND ANTI-TERRORIST.

5. AMBASSADOR DOUBTS QADHAFI HAS CONTACTS WITH RED BRIGADE
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AND HAS NO INFORMATION ON RED BRIGADE PRESENCE IN LIBYA. (COMMENT: WE IMAGINE, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYANS COULD, IF DESIRED, MAKE CONTACT WITH BRIGADE.) NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS TOLD HIS GOVERNMENT THAT, IF IT WISHES TO PURSUE QADHAFI'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE (WHICH AMBASSADOR UNDERSTOOD AS GESTURE OF MORAL SUPPORT), SPECIAL EMISSARY FROM ROME SHOULD COME TO TRIPOLI FOR MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS.
CARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TERRORISTS, DEATHS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TRIPOL00692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780196-0070
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780576/aaaacnha.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1feb0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2743117
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAFI AND RED BRIGADE SUMMARY. QADHAFI SUMMONED ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MORNING MAY 7 TO OFFER SYMPATHY TO MORO FAMILY, CONDEMN TERRORIS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, LY, IT, RED BRIGADE, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1feb0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014